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TEXAS
PRESS
ASSOCIATION

718 WEST 5TH ST. AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 PHONE 477-6755

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Houston, Texas

APR 9 1987

Support in condemnation of South Africa sought Rep. Mickey Leland says Black Caucus decided against move to cut Israel's aid

WASHINGTON, — Rep. Mickey Leland (D-Tex.) said the Black Caucus has realized that it "just wasn't a realistic proposal" to have Congress reduce aid to Israel, as a State Department report named Israel and six other countries as violators of a 10-year-old United Nations arms embargo of South Africa. The report was mandated by the anti-apartheid law that Congress passed last year over President Reagan's veto.

Leland said the caucus decided it would be better not to get into a confrontation with Jewish congressmen but to continue to have their support in condemning South Africa.

Rep. Leland is former chairman of the 23-member Congressional Black Caucus. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), also a former chairman, said Israel had taken only "a first step" by its Mar. 18 decision. "It must sever its ties with South Africa completely," Rangel said. Israel announced on Mar. 18 that it would not sign new military contracts with South Africa and would let existing contracts expire.

In its report, the State Department said "companies in France, Italy and Israel have continued to be involved in the maintenance and upgrading of major systems provided before the 1977 (UN) embargo" and that "companies in Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Switzerland have on occasion exported articles covered by the embargo without government permission or have engaged in sales to South Africa in the gray area between civilian and military applications."

Meanwhile, six congressmen, half of them Jewish, asked their colleagues in the House of Representatives to sign letters for delivery to the heads of governments in Israel and the six other countries to cease all forms of military assistance to South Africa.

All six congressmen who sponsored the letters are Democrats. The three Jewish members are Reps. Howard Berman and Mel Levine, both of California, and Howard Wolpe of Wisconsin, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on South Af-

rica. Reps. Leland and Rangel and Rep. Tony Coelho (D-Cal.) were other sponsors. Amelia Parker, director of the Black Caucus, said Berman took the lead on the sponsorship. — JOSEPH POLAKOFF